

Archaeological Assessment

Commissioned by

The Woodland Trust

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Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

registered in England

Nº 2869678

Coed Marl Hall, Esgyryn
Archaeological Assessment

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Coed Marl Hall Archaeological Assessment

Introduction

1 Introduction:

Coed Marl Hall is a 12.0 Ha woodland site owned by the Woodland Trust. Marl Hall, to which the woodland is adjacent, is under separate ownership.

The site comprises part semi-natural and part replanted ancient woodland with areas of calcareous grassland.

The Woodland Trust aims to restore the woodland.

1.1 Summary

Marl has had a succession of owners and tenants dating back to at least the beginning of the 17th century AD. Marl Hall itself has been rebuilt at least twice, and heavily renovated at the beginning of the 20th century AD.

Features of archaeological interest evident within Coed Marl Hall date mainly to the Post Medieval period and include quarrying activities, a dwelling, boundaries, pathways, and a number of garden features.

The garden features are of particular interest, providing information pertaining to the formal layout of the Marl Hall gardens.

Also of interest are remnant cave systems containing Pleistocene deposits.

2 Location

Coed Marl Hall is situated above and below a limestone cliff which lies approximately 1 km north east of Llandudno Junction, in the lower Conwy valley (Figure 1).

It lies within the area of Creuddyn and Conwy, identified as a landscape of outstanding historic interest (Cadw 1998a).

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Methodology

The study area is centred upon SH 8000 7890.

3 Methodology

A desktop study was carried out of cartographic, documentary and photographic materials held at the Gwynedd County Record Office, Caernarfon, the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth, and the University of Wales Bangor Department of Archives.

Copies of plans, pictorial or photographic evidence have been included and all sources have been fully listed including accession numbers.

A base map was created using a digital map provided by the Woodland Trust. Features located during the desk top study were superimposed onto a background layer within MapInfo Professional, version 4.0.

All features identified during the desk-based assessment were visited, where possible, to check the site location, to record form, size, extent and condition, and to obtain any additional information. The site was also walked systematically in order to check for other features. The field work took place in August AD 2002.

Each site or group of related features was allocated an individual record number for inclusion into the regional sites and monuments record. Features were located using a hand held Garmin Etrex Summit GPS system. In many places it was not possible to use the instrument due to density of tree cover. In these cases features were located by tying in to topographic and other features.

All located sites and features were plotted on to the MapInfo base map. Data collected was collated in a MapInfo table.

A basic photographic record of sites was made using 35 mm color transparency film and a metric scale. A series of digital images was also taken using a Canon A20 for use in the report.

The information collated in the MapInfo table formed the basis for a gazetteer (Appendix 1). The gazetteer includes a basic description of each site and an assessment of its condition and vulnerability.

Vulnerability was defined as follows:

- 1: Very high - likely to be destroyed by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions not taken.*
- 2: High - likely to suffer significant disruption by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions are not taken.*
- 3: Medium - may suffer some damage by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions are not taken.*
- 4: Unlikely to be affected by woodland management activities.*
- 5: Currently under threat of damage from other sources, usually human.*

Sites were also assigned a category as follows:

Category A: Archaeological monuments of national importance. This category may include sites which might meet the criteria for scheduling. Criteria for selection will usually be the rarity, condition and potential of the site.

Category B: Archaeological monuments and landscape features of regional or local importance. This category may include sites which whilst not meeting the criteria for scheduling may still be seen as of regional or local importance eg a type of site unique to a particular locality but common elsewhere, or

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Sources

severely degraded examples of commonly occurring types.

Category C: Archaeological monuments of lesser significance.

4 List of Sources Consulted

4.1 Written Sources

4.1.1 Primary Records

1780-7 Glynllifon Estate Papers 84
National Library, Aberystwyth

1884 Marle Demense Sale Catalogue
XSC 0721 Gwynedd Archives

1885 Marle Demense Sale Catalogue
XSC 0119 Gwynedd Archives

1889 Marle Mansion Sale Catalogue
XSC 0715 Gwynedd Archives

1981 Cadw Listed Buildings Record
Number 3318.

4.1.2 Secondary Sources

Aldhouse-Green, S. 2000 *Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Wales*. In Lynch, F., Aldhouse-Green, S and Davies, J.L. *Prehistoric Wales*. 1- 41. Sutton Publishing Ltd. Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Bradley, A. G. 1898 *Highways and Byways in North Wales*.

Cadw, 1998a *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*. Cadw.

Cadw, 1998b *Conwy, Gwynedd and the Isle of Anglesey. Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens*. Cadw.

Caernarfonshire Domestic Record File - RCAHM, Aberystwyth.

Davies, H. R. 1942 *The Conwy and Menai Ferries*. Board of Celtic Studies, University of Wales History and Law Series, No VIII.

GAT Regional Sites and Monuments Record.

Griffith, J. E. 1914 *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Caernarfonshire Families*.

Holland, T.E. 1915 *The Hollands of Conway, Five Hundred Years of Family History*.

Hyde Hall, E. 1958 *A Description of Caernarfonshire 1809 - 1811*. Caernarfonshire Historical Society.

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Jenkinson, R.D.S., Bramwell, D., Gilbertson, D.D., Griffin, C.M., Watts, C.J. And Wilkinson, M. 1981 *Death of a Wolf*. Nottingham and Derbyshire County Councils

Jenkinson, R.D.S. And Gilbertson, D.D. 1984 *In the Shadow of Extinction*. Nottingham and Derbyshire County Councils and University of Sheffield

Jones, P. 2000 *The Lost Medieval Townships and Landscape of the Creuddyn Peninsular*. University of Wales, Bangor Undergraduate Dissertation.

Llanrhos Parish File - RCAHM, Aberystwyth
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1926. *Calender of Wynn (of Gwydir) Papers 1515-1690 In the National Library of Wales and Elsewhere*.

Pennant, T. 1883 *Tours in Wales*, Vol III.

Tucker, N. 1957 Marl Hall. *Transactions of the Caernarfonshire Historical Society* Vol 18, 64 - 70.

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Desk Top Study

Williams, K. 1973 *Across the Straits, An Autobiography*. Gerald Duckworth and Co. Ltd, London.

Williams, R. 1835 *The History and Antiquities of the Town of Aberconwy and its Neighborhood*

4.2 Cartographic Sources

1737 *Cambrian Coastal Pilot - Conwy Bay and River* by Lewis Morris Esquire. Llangefni Archive Office.

1846 *Tithe Map and Schedule for Eglwys yn Rhos*. AC 1153 and AC 1192 National Library, Aberystwyth.

1885 *Map Accompanying Marl Sale Catalogue*, XSC 0119. Gwynedd Archives Service, Caernarfon.

1889 *Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map, Caernarfonshire Sheet V. 9*. Scale 1: 2500.

1889 *Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map, Caernarfonshire Sheet V. 5*. Scale 1:2500.

1900 *Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map, Caernarfonshire Sheet V. 9*. Scale 1:2500.

1900 *Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map, Caernarfonshire Sheet V. 5*. Scale 1:2500

1994 *Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 736 Llandudno*. Scale 1:25000

4.3 Aerial Photographs

Aerial Photographs (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales):

Aerial photographs viewed were of insufficient quality to provide meaningful information.

4 Desk Top Study

The history of Coed Marl Hall is inevitably linked to Marl Hall itself. An early map by Lewis Morris, dated to AD 1737, suggests Marl Hall surrounded by trees (Figure 2).

It is not clear when the original Marl Hall was constructed but William Holland of Conway is known to have owned the property by AD 1617 (Holland 1915, 102) and to have mortgaged it to Sir Peter Mutton and Richard Owen in AD 1624 as Trustees for Bishop John Williams (Holland 1915, 103). It seems however that the Bishop did not take possession until AD 1641 (Calender of Wyn Papers no 1690) with members of the Holland family staying on as tenants in the meantime.

Bishop Williams was at this point in time in possession of the Conwy Ferry. Marl seems to have been, thereafter associated with the ferry until it was superseded by Telford's bridge over the Menai Straits in the early 1800's (Tucker 1957, 69). Successive owners and tenants of Marl appear to have regulated the ferry (Davies 1942, 210).

Antiquarian writers believed Marl Hall to have been built in the 17th Century AD "The mansion-house of Marl was built in 1661, according to the date on the beam in the hall; it is beautifully situated under a lofty lime rock, and surrounded by large trees" (Williams 1835, 134). This was clearly a rebuilding carried out probably by Sir Griffith Williams, heir of Bishop Williams, who was created a baronet at about this time (Williams 1835, 135).

The property passed to the wife and then the grandson of Sir Griffith, Sir Robert Williams, who's name appears on Morris' AD 1737 map. Subsequently it passed to his sister Anne who married first Thomas, then Terrence Prendergast. A third brother Jeffery Prendergast is thought to have sold Marl to Thomas Williams of Llanidan,

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Desk Top Study

Anglesey at some point in the AD 1780's (Davies 1942, 199). Thomas Williams was a businessman who captured the British copper industry and is sometimes referred to as the "Copper King" (Williams 1973, 15).

Sometime in the middle of the 18th century AD it seems that Marl suffered significant damage. Pennant writing in the AD 1770's states "Pass by Marle, a house of fine appearance, but now little more than a case, having suffered by fire about forty years ago" (Pennant 1883, 131).

During the AD 1780's Marl seems to have been mortgaged for a few years to the Glynllifon Estate. Accounts give details of building materials presumably purchased to put right some of the above mentioned damage to the hall (Glynllifon Estate Papers 84).

Upon the death of Thomas Williams in 1801 the property passed to Owen Williams of the Craig y Don Estate in Anglesey. He seems to have let Marl to tenants (Tucker 1957, 69). His son Thomas Peers Williams inherited Marl. He also seems to have let much of the property. The AD 1846 Tithe Schedule names a Thomas Foulkes as occupying the hall, the woods and gardens surrounding it, and much of the land to the south west. While Peers Williams himself retained the use of the mountain pasture along the eastern periphery of the property (Figure 3 and appendix 1). Within the woodland to the north west of the hall two distinct features are marked. Plot 354 is described in the Tithe schedule as a reservoir while plot 335 is described as a brick garden.

At the end of the 19th century AD parts of the Craig y Don Estates were sold off by Owen Lewis Williams, son of Thomas Peers. Sale catalogues for Marl appear dating to AD 1884, AD 1885, and AD 1889 (XSC0115,119,721). The hall gardens, orchard and wood were all part of lot 1 as shown on a map accompanying the AD 1885

sale catalogue (Figure 4). The plot described as a brick garden on the AD 1846 Tithe map is here referred to as an orchard (number 93). A number of additional features appear to the south east. These are described as "Marle Bach cottage and garden" (numbers 96 and 96a) and as "two gardens" (number 97). The wooded area (number 94) is described as "wood quarry and lime kiln". Additionally a number of pathways traverse the north east quarter of the woodland. The sale catalogue describes it thus: " The land is generally well cultivated, has good depth of rich soil, is interspersed with fine trees, and has a good stream of water running through it; it is approached by a drive through an entrance lodge on the Colwyn Bay Road. The brick walled gardens are extensive, and well stocked with fruit trees. There is an ample and never failing supply of spring water". Successive sale catalogues indicate that the property was on the market for some time.

The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps dating to AD 1889 and AD 1900 respectively show, in addition, the position of a well on the northern boundary, the positions of two lime kilns on the southern boundary and an extended network of pathways (Figures 5 and 6).

In AD 1894 the Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund rented the property but soon after purchased it (Tucker 1957, 70). Much renovation work was carried out and the Hall was used as a convalescent home for women for some time.

Marl Hall itself is currently used as an outward bound centre and is a Grade II listed building. The leasehold of the woodland areas surrounding Marl Hall was acquired by the Forestry Commission and subsequently taken over by the Woodland Trust in 1985.

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Field Survey

5 Field Survey

During the course of the field survey forty one features or feature groups were identified. Their positions are shown on Figure 7 and they are described in the gazetteer (Appendix 2).

5.1 Caves

Part of three cave systems were recorded during the survey. By far the largest was PRN 16722 (Plate 1). This appeared to be a partial longitudinal section through the cave, revealed either through quarrying or by the natural collapse of a rock face. The stratigraphy exposed within the cave would appear to include an indurated breccia, over a less indurated breccia containing large limestone block, which in turn seals fine orange brown clayey sand. It is likely that the deposits extend both into the hillside and below the level of exposure.

The other caves may be much smaller. PRN 16744 was seen at the top of Jacob's Ladder and it appears to extend out of the survey area (Plate 2). The deposits it contained include flowstone (stalatitic) deposits and red/brown cave sands.

The blocky nature of some of the limestone deposits within the survey area has revealed a water worn wall of a third cave (PRN 16737) behind a jumble of fallen blocks. It is likely that this cave was partly responsible for the collapse along this line. No deposits were recorded, however, access to this feature was difficult.

Whilst no artefacts were noted in the survey associated with the caves it should be noted that two caves on the Great Orme, in similar limestones, contained Late Upper Palaeolithic artefacts (Aldhouse-Green 2000, 9). These are Kendrick's Cave and Ogof Tan-y-Bryn. Kendrick's Cave is of particular note as it contained very rare examples of portable art together with possible human

burials (Aldhouse-Green 2000, 21). It is unlikely that PRN 16744 and PRN 16737 were large enough for human use, however PRN 16722 has considerable potential.

Even small cavelets, however, may contain important deposits. Research since the 1980's, in similarly caves at Creswell Crags, Derbyshire (e.g. Jenkinson 1984, Jenkinson and Gilbertson 1984, Jenkinson et al 1981) has shown that even small caves can contain important Pleistocene deposits, often sealed by flowstone (stalatitic) deposits. These deposits can contain a detailed record of environmental change over long periods in the form of animal and plant remains preserved in the sediments.

5.2 Quarrying Activities

At eleven locations in the woodland activities associated with limestone quarrying and in some cases possible extraction were identified.

At one location in the south east corner of the site, two fairly large quarries, PRN 16719 (Plate 3) and 16721 would appear to represent organised quarrying activities. They are closely associated with a dwelling, PRN 16716, and the remains of a lime kiln, PRN 16717. Early Ordnance Survey maps, indicate the presence of a second lime kiln at a location close by now occupied by a car park (Figures 5 and 6). Both quarry faces show evidence for working at more than one level and PRN 16719 has a deliberately built earth and stone ramp, PRN 16723, for access to upper working levels.

At several other locations throughout the woodland, PRN 16731, 16732, 16736, 16738 and 16740, evidence for the quarrying of natural limestone exposures was seen (Plate 4). This probably represents small scale, localised activity for wall building etc.

Along the eastern boundary of the site a number of small exploration or extraction

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Field Survey

pits were recorded PRN 16725, 16726, 16727 and 16728 (Plate 5). These excavated features would suggest that minerals were being sought or exploited. The activity is, however, small scale and opportunistic.

5.3 Dwelling

Marl Bach cottage, PRN 16716, lies in the south east corner of the site. The remains, which survive to a height of 2m in places (Plate 6), suggest a structure divided into at least two rooms. Internally lime plastered walls would indicate a domestic dwelling. The cottage has a small outhouse, PRN 16754 (Plate 7). The plot on which the cottage sits is clearly defined by a wall, PRN 16718 (Plate 8). Further boundaries, PRN 16724, marking out two further plots to the east are probably garden plots associated with the cottage.

The proximity of the cottage with quarries PRN 16719 and 16721 and a path defined by a bank, PRN 16720, leading from the cottage to the quarries suggests an association between the two.

5.4 Boundaries and Pathways

Along its northern boundary the property is defined by a substantial boundary wall PRN 16734, marking the divide between Marl and the neighboring estate of Bodesgallen (Plate 10). Adjacent to this wall runs a path, PRN 16735, which appears to be of some antiquity, having a hollowed profile. At the point where the path crosses the boundary into the Bodesgallen estate are a series of three rough limestone slab steps, PRN 16733.

Other apparently old paths, PRN 16730 and 16729, provide a route along the eastern edge of the site. These paths appear deliberately made, cutting through limestone outcrops in places, and are worn to a hollowed profile in places.

These pathways probably originally served as route ways across the upland part of the

property. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of AD 1889 (Figure 5) shows the southern end of PRN 16729 continuing as a marked footpath running towards the village of Ersgryn and the north end of 16730 continuing to Bodesgallen Hall.

A blocked gateway, PRN 16756, to the north west, indicates an old access point to Bodesgallen. Paths leading to this gateway shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps are no longer evident.

5.5 Garden features

An area in the north west corner of the site contains a number of apparently related features interpreted as garden features.

The slope directly to the north west of the hall is traversed by a series of terraces, 3 to 4 m across in width.

The lowest terrace, PRN 16751, runs between the hall and a brick walled garden, PRN 16747, and is in part still in use as a path. The brick walled garden survives as a limestone block foundation below a brick wall surviving to a maximum of 5 courses. The bricks are hand made (Plate 12). The feature is roughly 40m square, only the east and west walls are within the property boundary. It is not currently possible to tell where the entrances would have been. The feature sits within a series of terraces, PRN 16753 which appear to respect it, possibly being created when the ground was leveled to construct the brick garden.

Directly to the south of the brick garden is a shallow ditch. This would appear to be the remnants of the feature described as a reservoir in the AD 1846 Tithe schedule. Tumbled stone at the northern end of the feature indicates that it may originally have been stone lined. Its' precise function is unclear but it may have been to provide a supply of water for the gardens.

Roughly half way up the slope two parallel terraces, PRN 16749, run between the hall

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Discussion

and what is thought to be an early entrance way into the property. This was probably therefore a driveway possibly with planting on the uppermost terrace. At its northern end the driveway is defined by a substantial limestone block wall, PRN 16746 (Plate 14). The entrance way, PRN 16755, is defined by a marked change in building style in the boundary wall (Plate 13).

At the top of the slope another terrace runs between the hall and a feature which takes the form of a small pool, PRN16742, defined by a series of stone walls and steps which is fed from a natural spring through a channel or leat in the rocks which may be partly man made (Plates 16, 17, and 18). The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of AD 1900 marks this feature as a well. The present structure around the pool can be seen to sit directly on an earlier structure.

A stone stile through the wall which defines the pool gives access to a pathway which leads into the woodland along the northern boundary, PRN 16745. The pathway is defined by two walls and leads to a flight of stone steps, PRN 16743 (Plate 9), which give access to the upper wooded areas of the property. The walled pathway and the steps are referred to as the Nun's Walk and Jacob's Ladder respectively (Woodland Trust notice board). Both of these features appear relatively recently maintained, but the steps clearly replace an older flight and the walled walk encapsulates earlier features such as the blocked entranceway, PRN 16755.

A limestone exposure above the pool, from which the spring issues (Plate 16) is topped by the remains of a limestone block wall, PRN 16752, defining a path running along the top of the scarp. Set into the path are two limestone block steps, PRN 16741 (Plate 11).

Behind the hall the early Ordnance Survey maps mark further walkways. All that is evident today is the existing path which directs visitors from the car park into the

woodland directly behind the hall. Along this pathway the remains of a brick cistern is seen, PRN 16739. The feature is built of machine made bricks, is cement lined and faced externally with limestone blocks (Plate 20). Close by a hollow may indicate the location of an older cistern (Plate 19). These features are presumed to be associated with an early domestic water supply to the hall.

6 Discussion

The earliest features of archaeological interest are the caves, two of which contain deposits which may date to the Pleistocene period and one of which has potential for human activity. These deposits, however, do not currently appear to be under threat and are unlikely to be disturbed by woodland management activities.

No other features predating the Post Medieval period were located during the survey.

It seems likely that the lower parts of the woodland today were once an integral part of formal gardens associated with Marl Hall itself. A series of walkways lead directly from the hall to the remains of the walled garden, an early entrance way into the property, a small pool fed by a natural spring, and a flight of stone steps leading to the upper areas of the woodland where woodland paths give access to view points. Walled gardens occur commonly at other locations locally (Cadw 1998b) but tend to be larger than the Marl example and to have acted as kitchen gardens. The walled garden at Marl may have been used specifically for the production of fruit.

The function of the feature referred to as the reservoir is uncertain. Cartographic evidence indicates that it once was a much larger feature defining the western boundary of the gardens. It was probably fed by a stream which runs along this boundary and may have acted as a reservoir for a water

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supply to the garden while at the same time providing a water feature itself. Buried deposits from within this feature could contain environmental indicators of planting and gardening activities.

This formal garden layout dates to at least the first half of the 19th century AD, the walled garden and reservoir were in place when the AD 1846 Tithe map was drawn up. Others, such as the spring pool and the flight of steps, while appearing more recent, clearly replaced earlier features.

This group of features is considered to be of particular note. They provide a hint of the formal garden lay out of Marl Hall for which there appears to be limited surviving documentary evidence. This group of features is not listed in the Cadw Register of Parks and Gardens for this area (Cadw 1998b) as its small scale and incomplete nature would not have met criterion for inclusion. The features are nevertheless an important survival of a smaller garden and would be of interest to researchers and in particular to the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust who are currently compiling a gazetteer of such sites.

Many of the features may suffer some damage by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions are not taken. The walled garden is currently under threat from human activities in this area, lighting of bonfires etc.

Quarrying activities probably started at the end of the 19th century AD to meet local demands for lime in farming and building and for limestone as a building material. Marl Bach would appear to represent small scale but organised quarrying activity with someone living on site. Other small scale quarrying and extraction activities also occur.

Quarrying and extraction activities are common survivals in woodland sites. The

quarry faces and extraction pits are unlikely to suffer damage from woodland management activities. Some of the associated features at Marl Bach may suffer damage if appropriate precautions are not taken.

7 Recommendations

- 1 Should new access tracks be planned in order to carry out woodland management work and remove timber they should where ever possible be positioned to avoid archaeological features.*
- 2 Should disruption of a feature be anticipated during the construction of access routes an Archaeologist should be present to carry out a watching brief and record any archaeological deposits.*
- 3 The remains of the walled garden to the north west of the woodland would benefit from consolidation works to prevent any further disruption to the structure.*
- 4 In addition to the Gwynedd SMR a copy of the report be submitted to The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, for inclusion into their archive.*

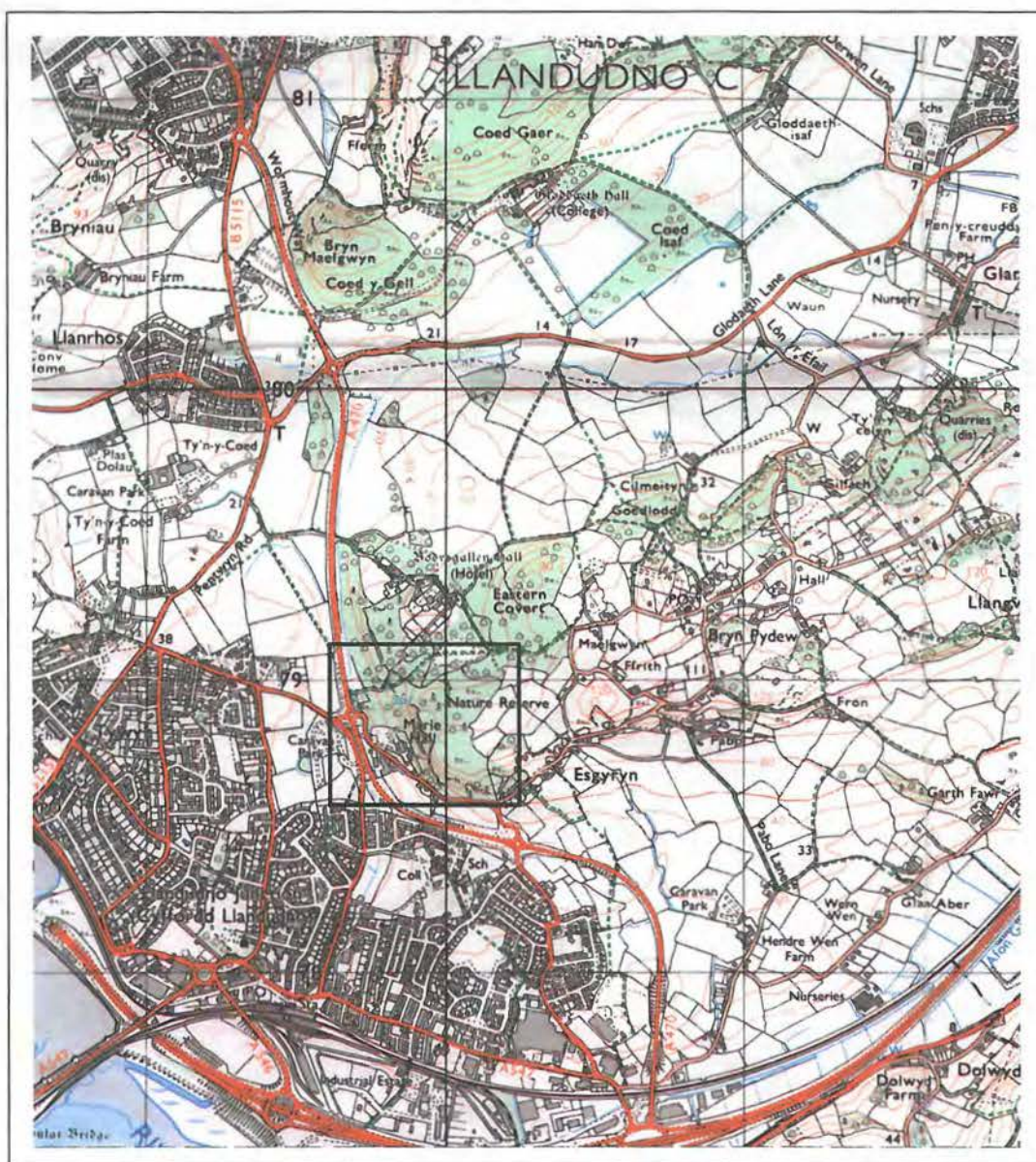


Figure 1: Location Map
 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 736, Llandudno
 Scale:1:25000

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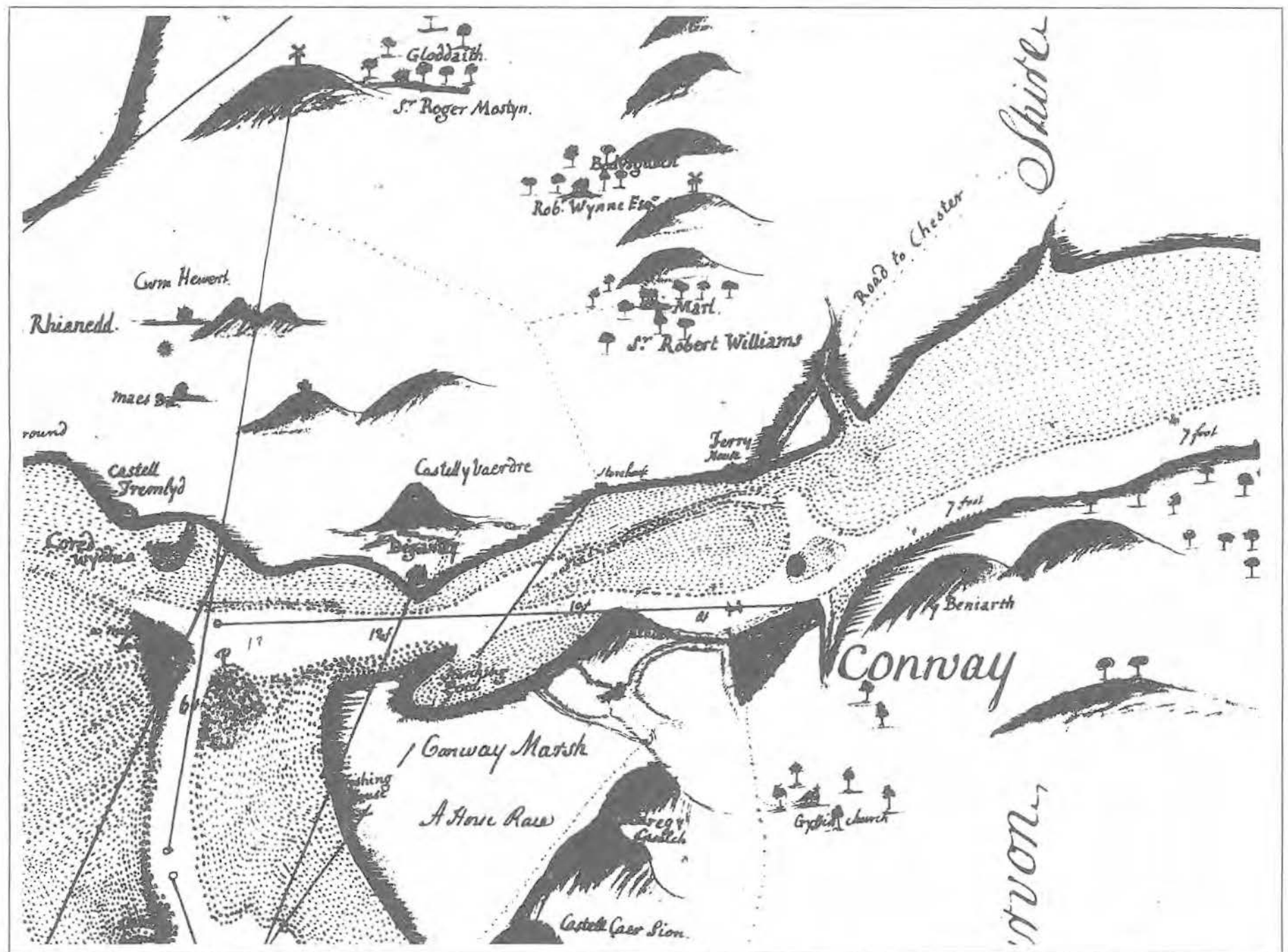


Figure 2: Extract from the Cambrian Coastal Pilot, Conway Bay and River, Lewis Morris AD 1737
(Llangefni Archive Office)

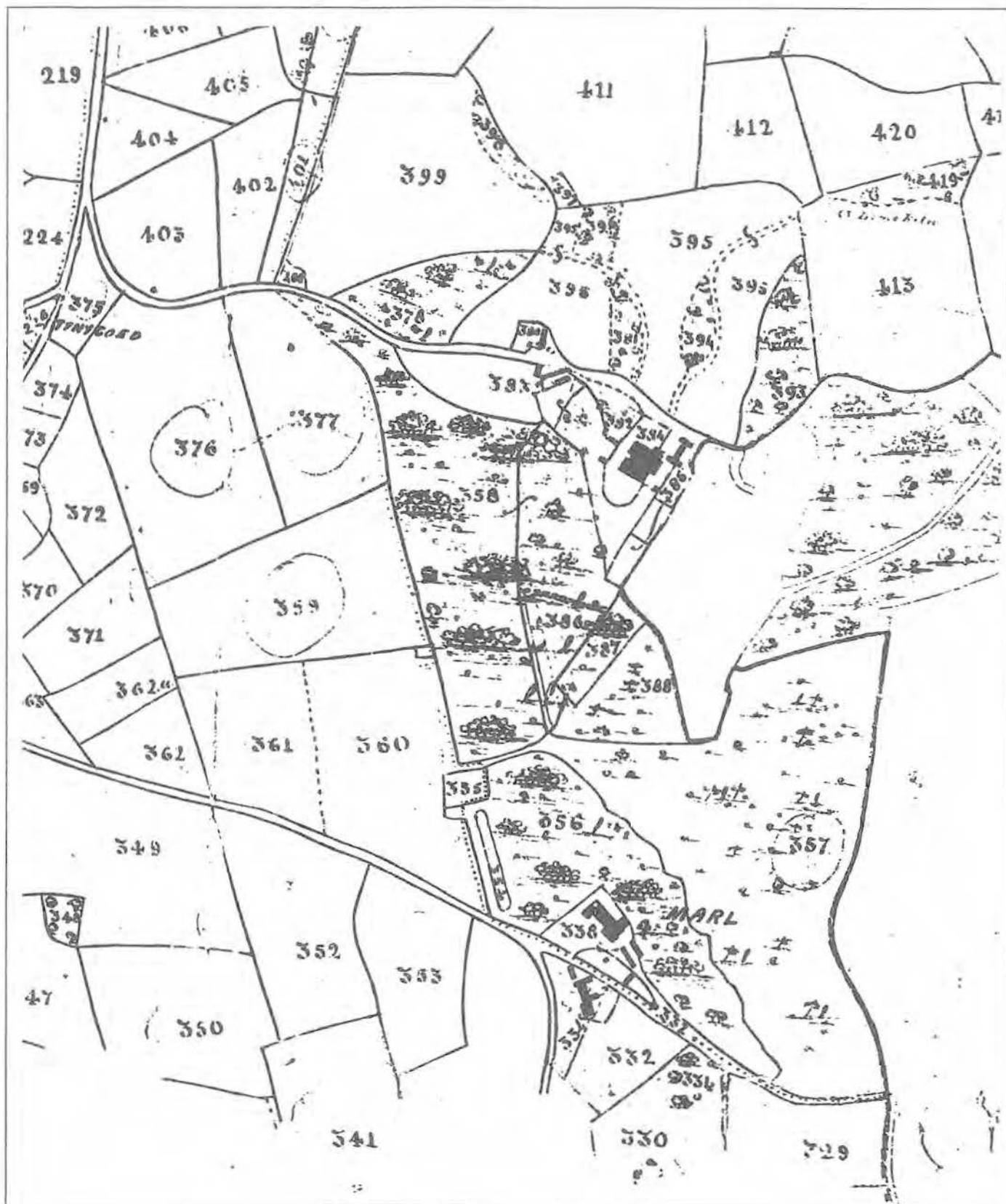


Figure 3: Extract from Tithe Map, AD 1846
(National Library, Aberystwyth)

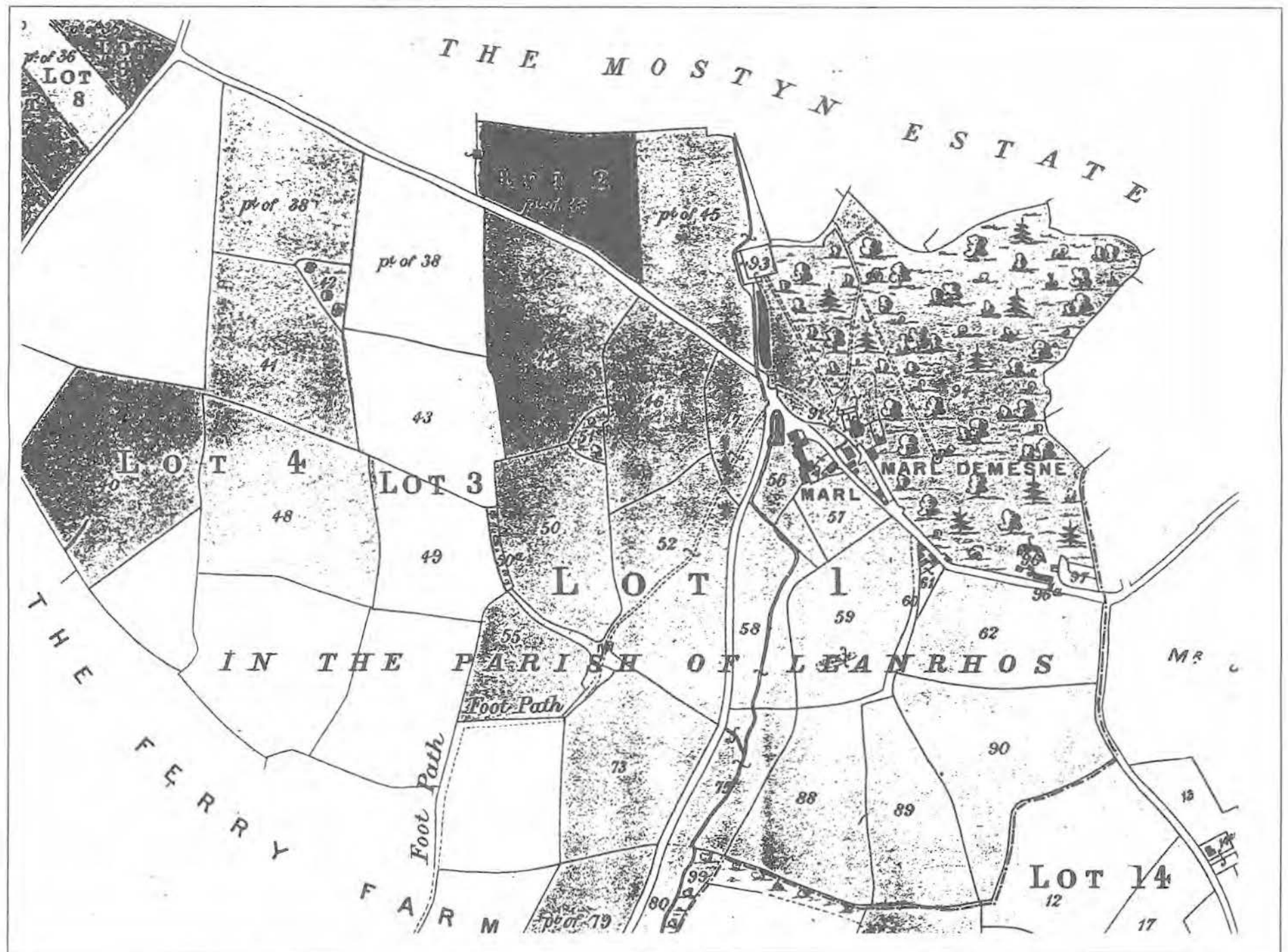


Figure 4: Extract from Map Accompanying Marl Sale Catalogue, AD 1885, Scale 1:6336
(Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon)

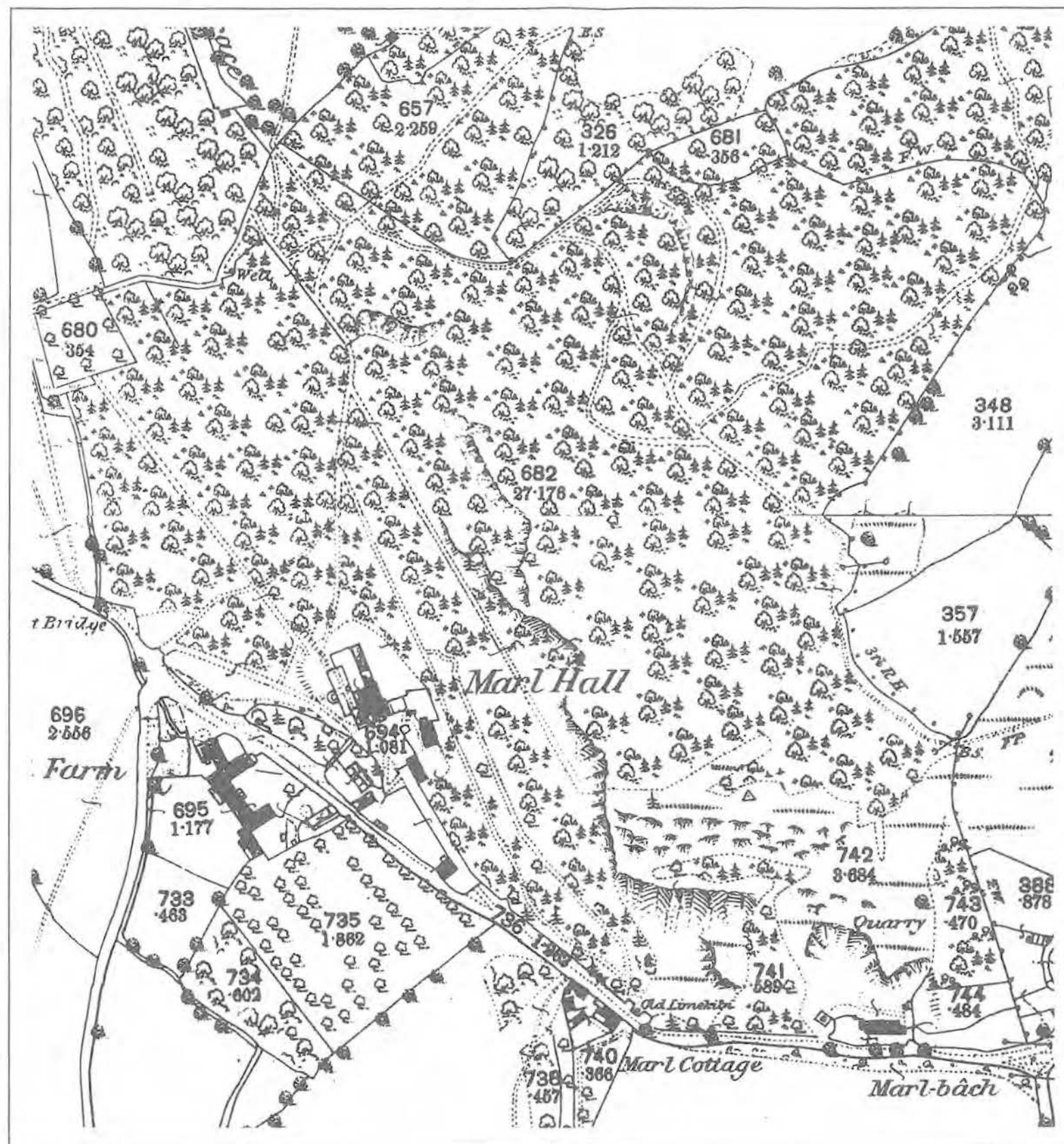


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map, AD 1889
Scale:1:2500

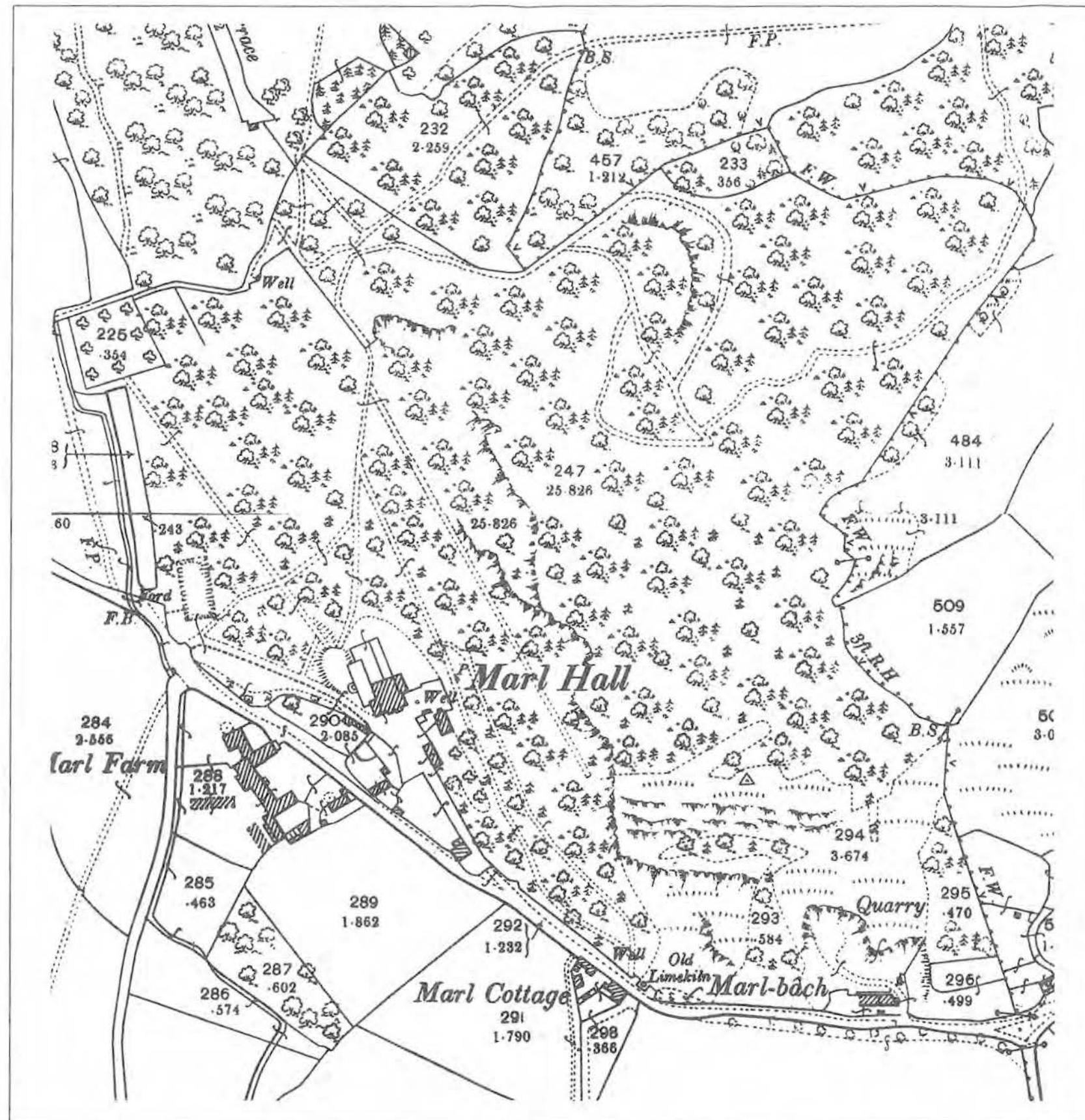
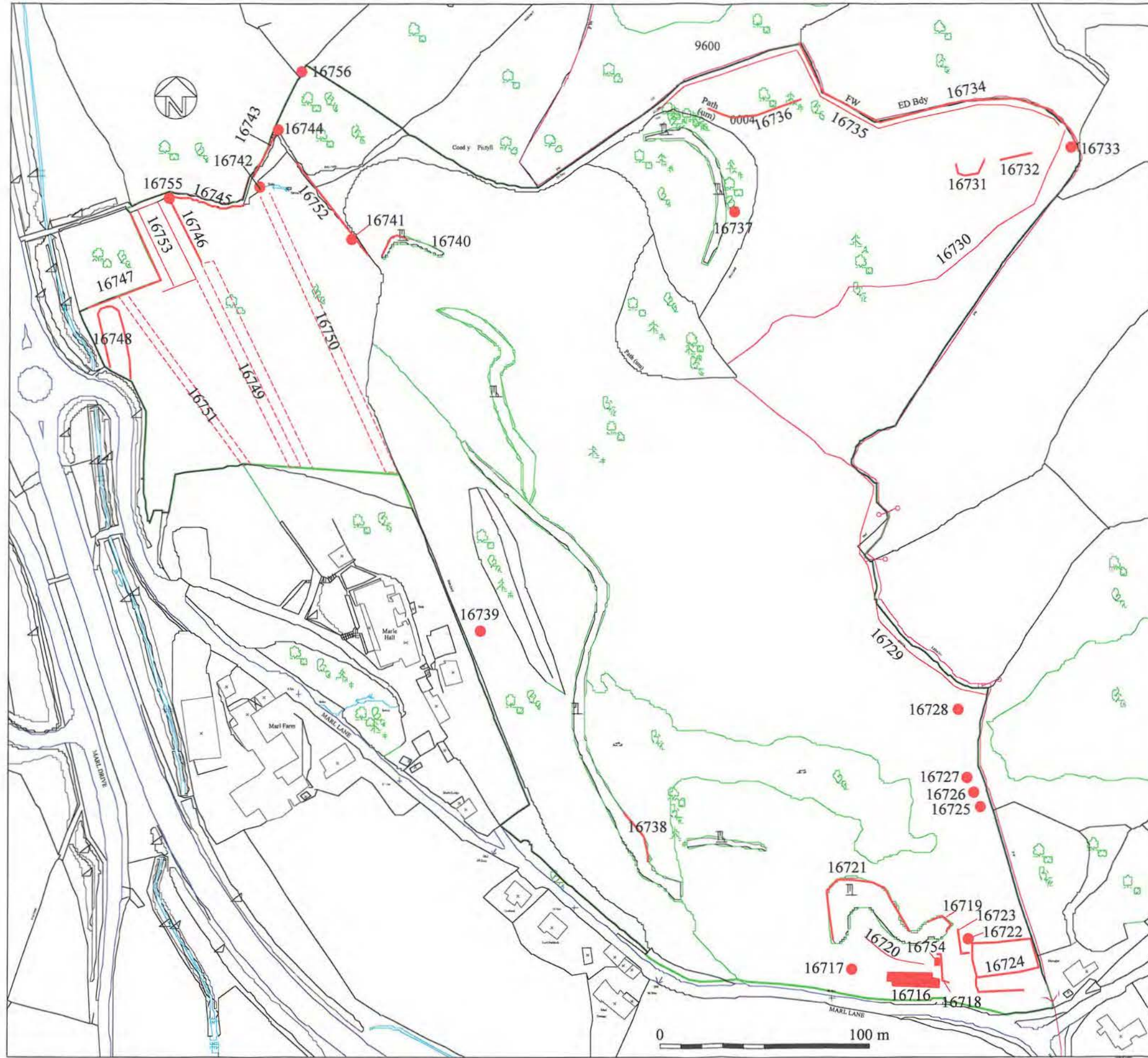


Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map, AD 1900
Scale: 1:2500



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Plate 1: Cave sediment within PRN 16722



Plate 2: Cave sediment at top of Jacob's Ladder (PRN 16744)



Plate 3: Marl Bach Quarry (PRN 16719)



Plate 4: Quarry (PRN 16740)



Plate 5: Possible exploration pit (PRN 16725)



Plate 6: Marl Bach (PRN 16716)



Plate 7: Marl Bach outhouse (PRN 16754)



Plate 8: Marl Bach garden wall (PRN 16718)



Plate 9: Jacob's Ladder (PRN 16743)



Plate 10: Estate wall (PRN 16734)



Plate 11: Steps (PRN 16741)



Plate 12: Brick garden (PRN 16747)



Plate 13: Possible entrance (PRN 16755)



Plate 14: Wall defining possible drive (PRN 16746)



Plate 15: Reservoir (PRN 16748)



Plate 16: Springhead



Plate 17: Leat to spring pool



Plate 18: Spring pool (PRN 16742)



Plate 19: Possible old cistern



Plate 20: Brick cistern (PRN 16739)

Appendix 1: Transcript of 1846 Tithe schedule relevant to Coed Marl Hall

Landowner	Occupiers	No on Plan	Description	State of Cultivation	Quantities	Payable To
					A. R. P	£ s. d.
Williams Thomas Peers Esq.	Thomas Foulks	338	Lake		2 26	10
		354	Reservoir		1	
		355	Brick Garden		1 27	2 10
		356	Coed	Wood	10	
Williams Thomas Peers Esq.	Himself	357	Mountain	Pasture	20 1 28	9 10

Appendix 2: Gazetteer

Key:

VULN. (Vulnerability)

- 1: Very high - likely to be destroyed by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions not taken.
- 2: High - likely to suffer significant disruption by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions are not taken.
- 3: Medium - may suffer some damage by woodland management activities if appropriate precautions are not taken.
- 4: Unlikely to be affected by woodland management activities.
- 5: Currently under threat of damage from other sources, usually human.

CAT. (Category)

Category A: Archaeological monuments of national importance. This category may include sites which might meet the criteria for scheduling. Criteria for selection will usually be the rarity, condition and potential of the site.

Category B: Archaeological monuments and landscape features of regional or local importance. This category may include sites which whilst not meeting the criteria for scheduling may still be seen as of regional or local importance eg a type of site unique to a particular locality but common elsewhere, or severely degraded examples of commonly occurring types.

Category C: Archaeological monuments of lesser significance.

Appendix 2: Gazetteer

PRN	GRID REF	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION	VULN.	CAT.
16,716	SH 80121 78600	Dwelling	Post Medieval	Cottage (Marl Bach) with outbuilding (16754). Cottage has at least two rooms and was slate roofed. Internal wall faces are lime plastered. External walls are 700 mm thick, the internal division is 500 mm thick. Walls are constructed of large limestone blocks, 0.4 x 0.5 x 0.6 m in size.	Ruinous but walls stand to 2 m in places. Very overgrown.	3	C
16,717	SH 80079 78601	Lime Kiln	Post Medieval	Sub-rectangular void, approximately 4 m square, with open side to Marl Lane. Potential flat charging platform to the east.	No structural survival apparent. Overgrown, inaccessible.	3	C
16,718	SH 80122 78599	Wall	Post Medieval	Stone revetting wall to the east of cottage 16716. Defines edge of plot. Maximum height 1.4 m, thickness 0.4 m. Composed of limestone blocks 100 x 100 - 200 x 300 mm size range.	Near complete in places, tumbled in others.	3	C
16,719	SH 80124 78625	Quarry	Post Medieval	Limestone quarry to the rear of cottage (16716). Worked on at least two levels. Base of upper level is 3 m above base of quarry. 5 m wide, 8 m long. Spoil heaped around mouth of quarry.	Overgrown.	4	C
16,720	SH 80100 78606	Bank	Post Medieval	Earth bank to the rear of cottage 16716 defining rough path to quarry 16721. 1.8 m wide, 0.6 m high	Good	4	C
16,721	SH 80084 78643	Quarry	Post Medieval	Large limestone quarry adjacent to 16781. Some indication of working on different levels, but much of the quarry face worked as one in the final phase of use. 35 by 15 m in size.	Overgrown.	4	C
16,722	SH 80134 78616	Cave	Pleistocene	Cliff exposure exhibiting the back of a very large cave, at least 20 m across. Indurated breccia over a breccia with limestone blocks over fine orange brown clay sands.	Surviving deposits are in good condition.	4	B
16,723	SH 80133 78609	Ramp	Post Medieval	Ramp constructed of earth and limestone fragments, approximately 30 m long, 4 m wide. Probably associated with the upper working of quarry 16719.	Good	3	C
16,724	SH 80166 78609	Boundaries	Post Medieval	A series of earth banks defining two garden plots to the east of cottage 16716. The plots are somewhat scarped into the hillside. The banks are 0.7 m wide and 1.5 m high where scarped below, but otherwise 0.5 m high.	Indistinct	3	C
16,725	SH 80140 78678	Exploration pits	Post Medieval	Possible extraction pit (? adit), 4.3 m long, 1.2 - 1.7 m wide, 0.5 m deep. Rectangular in shape, running into limestone exposure.	Overgrown	4	C
16,726	SH 80137 78685	Exploration pit	Post Medieval	Possible extraction pit (? adit), 3.5 m wide, 8 m long, 2 m deep.	Overgrown	4	C

Appendix 2: Gazetteer

PRN	GRID REF	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION	VULN.	CAT.
16,727	SH 80134 78692	Exploration pit	Post Medieval	Small extraction pit. Two sub-rectangular cuts into the slope.	Overgrown	4	C
16,728	SH 80130 78724	Exploration pits	Post Medieval	A series of five shallow roughly rectangular pits in a rough line. The smallest measures 2 x 4 x 0.5 m deep, the largest measures 4 x 6 x 0.5 m deep. Other pits on a similar alignment are noted on the adjacent property.	Overgrown	4	C
16,729	SH 80083 78798	Pathway	Post Medieval	Pathway running along eastern boundary. Deliberately cut through limestone outcrops. In places worn to a hollowed profile. 1 m wide on average. Still in use.	Good	3	C
16,730	SH 80099 78925	Pathway	Post Medieval	Deliberately made, fairly wide pathway. 5 m wide, no longer used.	Overgrown	3	C
16,731	SH 80132 78978	Quarry	Post Medieval	Small scale quarrying activity for limestone close to the edge of path 16730, 0.5 x 3 x 5 m in size.	Overgrown	4	C
16,732	SH 80151 78984	Quarry	Post Medieval	Small scale limestone quarrying. A quarried back natural exposure 1 m in height.	Overgrown	4	C
16,733	SH 80187 78990	Steps	Post Medieval	Series of three rough stone steps made of large limestone slabs. The steps are 1300 mm wide and the slabs are 1500 x 300 x 500 mm on average.	Good	3	C
16,734	SH 80158 79013	Boundary Wall	Post Medieval	Notably substantial boundary wall (estate wall). 1.5 m high, 0.5 m wide. Composed of limestone blocks up to 0.5 x 0.9 m but more normally 0.2 x 0.4 m. Slabs set on end form a wall capping.	Good.	4	C
16,735	SH 80072 79010	Pathway	Post Medieval	Pathway running parallel to northern boundary, hollowed profile. 1 m wide. Still in use.	Good	3	C
16,736	SH 80034 79006	Quarry	Post Medieval	Natural limestone scarp which has been quarried back. 2 m in height, 50 m in length.	Overgrown.	4	C
16,737	SH 80024 78960	Cave	Pleistocene	Remnant survival of the back of a remnant collapsed cave. As the cave has collapsed massive limestone blocks have tumbled out. Water worn faces are visible along the rock face.	No deposits surviving.	4	C
16,738	SH 79982 78656	Quarry	Post Medieval	Limestone exposure showing signs of having been quarried. 30 m high, 40 m long. Small scale limestone debris seen on slope below.	Good.	4	C

Appendix 2: Gazetteer

PRN	GRID REF	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION	VULN.	CAT.
16,739	SH 79902 78762	Cisterns?	Post Medieval	A brick built and cement lined cistern with limestone blocks on the external faces. Bricks are machine made. The cistern measures 2 x 2.7 m and the visible height is 0.9 m. Adjacent is a hole of similar dimensions which may have once contained a similar structure.	Good but overgrown.	4	C
16,740	SH 79862 78949	Quarry	Post Medieval	Limestone exposure which has been quarried. 6 m high, 18 m long, 6 m wide. One main working face is evident with two smaller side faces.	Good.	4	C
16,741	SH 79839 78951	Steps	Post Medieval	Set of two steps set into path. Each step is composed of 3 or 4 large limestone slabs. The width of the steps is 1500 mm and the average block size is 150 x 300 x 450 mm.	Good	3	C
16,742	SH 79797 78972	Spring Pool	Post Medieval	Situated close to the northern boundary, a natural spring erupts from a crevice in a limestone exposure, flows through a channel in the rocks which may be partly man made to a natural pool. It the passes through the wall which defines pathway 16745 to a square man made pool defined by a series of low walls and steps. A stone stile bridges the wall to give access to the pool and the pathway. The feature appears recently maintained but sits an older footings.	Good	4	B
16,743	SH 79799 78987	Steps	Post Medieval	Series of twenty two steps made from limestone blocks running up part of the northern boundary to the north east of the spring pool. The steps are 3.3 m wide at the bottom of the flight and 1.4 m wide at the top of the flight. The steps do not appear worn but replace an older flight, the remnants of which are seen directly adjacent (Jacob's Ladder).	Good	4	B
16,744	SH 79804 79000	Cave	Pleistocene	Back of small cave at the top of steps 16743. Red brown cave sediments and flow stones visible.	Good	4	C
16,745	SH 79802 78994	Pathway	Post Medieval	Pathway leading into woodlands from road along northern boundary (The Nun's Walk). Defined by two stone walls. A substantial stone wall marking property boundary, 2.2 m high made of large limestone blocks, on the north, and smaller wall, 1.2 m high on the south. The path is 1.8 m wide and has occasional limestone block steps.	Fairly recently maintained. In places the surface of the path has been repaired with bricks and brick rubble.	4	B
16,746	SH 79769 78936	Wall	Post Medieval	A fairly massive limestone block revetting wall at right angles to boundary wall (16745). Possibly once defining an entrance way to Marl Hall. 1.15 m high, block size up to 0.4 x 0.75 m.	Good.	3	B

Appendix 2: Gazetteer

PRN	GRID REF	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION	VULN.	CAT.
16,747	SH 79707 78924	Walled Garden	Post Medieval	The feature measures 40 m square, but only the south and east walls are within the property boundary. The feature has limestone block footings, 500 mm wide with five courses of a brick wall surviving above. The bricks are hand made, measuring 60 x 130 x 240 mm. The limestone blocks are 260 x 300 mm to 400 x 450 mm and bonded with a crumbly lime mortar.	Poor, bricks are strewn about and used to build fires.	3/5	B
16,748	SH 79728 78914	Ditch	Post Medieval	Wide, shallow ditch to the south of the brick garden (16747). 6 m wide, approx. 30 m surviving length, 1 m maximum depth. Tumbled limestone blocks at the north end suggest that the feature may have been stone lined.	Indistinct, silted up and overgrown.	3	B
16,749	SH 79768 78935	Terraced Path	Post Medieval	Two parallel terraces running between Marl Hall to a blocked entrance in the northern boundary. Both are 3 m across with a 6 m drop between the two. The lower terrace would appear to have been an access route or drive with the upper one perhaps for planting.	Indistinct	3	B
16,750	SH 79860 78837	Terraced Path	Post Medieval	Terraced path running from Marl Hall in the direction of the spring pool, 16742, 4 m in width.	Indistinct	3	B
16,751	SH 79792 78840	Terraced Path	Post Medieval	Terraced path running from Marl Hall in the direction of the brick garden, 3 m in width. Some hints of a limestone block edging in places.	Indistinct	3	B
16,752	SH 79848 78940	Wall	Post Medieval	Stone wall of large limestone blocks perched along the uppermost edge of a natural limestone scarp. The wall is 0.5 m high and composed of blocks up to 0.5 x 0.5 x 0.5 m.	Tumbled.	3	B
16,753	SH 79766 78928	Terraces	Post Medieval	A series of two terraces to the north east of and apparently respecting the brick garden (16747). Terrace closest to the brick garden is 3 m wide while the upper terrace is 6 m wide.	Indistinct	3	B
16,754	SH 80120 78605	Outhouse	Post Medieval	Outbuilding associated with cottage 16716, measuring 2.1 x 2.3 m. One wall stands to 1.7 m with a sloping roof line surviving. Constructed of small limestone blocks and machine made bricks with a lime mortar. The entrance is 0.6 m wide and faces Marl Bach.	Ruinous.	3	C
16,755	SH 79768 78967	Entrance	Post Medieval	Distinct change in building style of boundary wall indicates the presence of a gateway.	Good	4	B
16,756	SH 79818 79028	Entrance	Post Medieval	Blocked up entrance in the boundary wall, 0.5 m wide.	Good	4	C

Appendix 3: Specification for an archaeological assessment at Coed Marl Hall

1 Background

- 1.1 The Woodland Trust wish to commission an archaeological assessment for Coed Marl Hall in advance of woodland restoration works.
- 1.2 Coed Marl Hall covers an area of 12.0 Ha, situated above and below a limestone cliff overlooking Llandudno Junction, Conwy.
- 1.3 This specification has been provided in accordance with a brief provided by the Woodland Trust and following a site visit made on 4th April 2002.

2 Objectives

The principal objectives of the proposed archaeological assessment are as follows:

- 2.1 To identify and map, by desktop survey, archaeological sites and historical features within the area of study as outlined.
- 2.2 To chart, by means of desktop survey, the development of the woodland through time and relate this to modern stock maps.
- 2.3 To confirm, by field survey, the site locations, to add detail, and to identify and plot any sites not located by desk top survey.
- 2.4 To compile a gazetteer of the sites including records of their nature, date, function and condition.
- 2.5 To categorize the sites, for woodland management purposes, according to their archaeological importance and vulnerability.

3 Methodology

3.1 Desktop study:

The following sources will be consulted

- 3.1.1 The County Record Office, will be consulted for relevant map and documentary records.
- 3.1.2 The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth will be consulted for appropriate map and documentary records.
- 3.1.3 The Sites and Monuments Record held by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust will be consulted for relevant records.
- 3.1.4 Aerial photographs belonging to the collections of the RCAHM(W), and other bodies as relevant.
- 3.1.5 Any other relevant sources as available i.e. any records held by The Woodland Trust or the University of Wales at Bangor.
- 3.1.6 Published sources relevant to the property will also be consulted.
- 3.1.7 Copies of plans and scanned copies of pictorial or photographic evidence will be included.
- 3.1.8 All sources will be fully listed and shall include accession numbers.

3.2 Field Survey:

- 3.2.1 All sites identified during the desk-based assessment will be visited.

- 3.2.2 Sites will be visited to check the site location, to record form, size, extent and condition, and to obtain any additional information.
- 3.2.3 Previously unidentified sites located during the field work will be recorded.
- 3.2.4 A transect approach to the field work will be adopted where possible.
- 3.2.5 A basic photographic record will be made where possible.

4 *Report and Archive*

- 4.1 On completion of the desktop study and the field survey a report shall be produced which will contain:
 - 4.1.1 A summary of the sources used.
 - 4.1.2 A summary of the methodology and its effectiveness.
 - 4.1.3 A summary of the desk top study including copies of relevant sources.
 - 4.1.4 A general description of the sites and features recorded and their condition.
 - 4.1.5 A digitised map (using Map Info.) locating all archaeological features .
 - 4.1.6 Recommendations for further work if appropriate.
 - 4.1.7 A gazetteer of all sites recorded (provided in a suitably compatible spreadsheet/database format to be agreed). The gazetteer will include:
 - 4.1.7.1 Unique reference number (PRN)
 - 4.1.7.2 National Grid Reference
 - 4.1.7.3 Site Type
 - 4.1.7.4 Period
 - 4.1.7.5 Description
 - 4.1.7.6 Condition
 - 4.1.7.7 Vulnerability
 - 4.1.7.8 Management Category
 - 4.1.8 A bibliography.

- 4.2 The report will be provided as bound copies (number to be agreed) and also on disc in Microsoft Word.
- 4.3 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other relevant findings will be lodged in The Sites and Monuments Record within six months of the completion of the project.

5 *Liaison*

- 5.1 Measures will be adopted, as appropriate, to facilitate the monitoring of the project at all times by the Woodland Trust.
- 5.2 The Woodland Trust Site Manager will be contacted prior to commencement of the field work element of the project and with regard to any access issues.
- 5.3 The Woodland Trust Site Manager will be kept informed of progress, by e-mail, throughout the project.

6 *Staff*

- 6.1 The project will be directed by Dr. Ian Brooks M.I.F.A.

- 6.2 Project staff will include Dr. Ian Brooks, Kathy Laws.
- 6.3 It is proposed that one member of staff should carry out the desk top phase of the evaluation and also complete the final report and archive.
- 6.4 *EAS Ltd.* has undertaken similar projects as follows: Contract 12 Archaeological Assessment: Report for Forest Enterprise, I.P. Brooks and J. Price June 1999; Coed y Gopa and Coed Bryngwenallt Archaeological Assessment, K. Laws and I.P. Brooks February 2002.

7 General

7.1 IFA Code of Conduct

- 7.1.1 All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- 7.1.2 *EAS Ltd.* will abide by the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

7.2 Health and Safety

- 7.2.1 *EAS Ltd.* adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times.
- 7.2.2 *EAS Ltd.* will undertake risk assessments as appropriate prior to commencement of the project.

7.3 Insurance

- 7.3.1 *EAS Ltd.* carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.
- 7.3.2 *EAS Ltd.* carries Professional Indemnity Insurance.

7.4 Copyright

- 7.4.1 *EAS Ltd.* shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documentation, under the *Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive license to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 7.4.2 *EAS Ltd.* is prepared to assign copyright at the request of the client.

8 Timetable

8.1 Time tabling would break down as follows:

- 8.1.1 Desktop - visit to County Records Office - 1 man day
- 8.1.2 Desktop - visit to the Sites and Monuments Office in Bangor - 1 man day
- 8.1.3 Desktop - visit to National Library and Royal Commission in Aberystwyth - 1 man day
 - 8.1.3.1 If telephone enquiries determine that there are no relevant records this item will not be charged.
- 8.1.4 Desktop - consulting any other appropriate sources - 1 man day
- 8.1.5 Field survey - visits to check and record sites - 6 man days (2 people for 3 days).
- 8.1.6 Report and archive- 3 man days

- 8.2 We are currently available for work. It is suggested however that if there is no immediate deadline best results would be obtained in the Autumn or Winter when ground and tree cover is at a minimum.